



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS MEXICAN NATIONAL FOR  
ILLEGALLY TRANSPORTING ALIENS RESULTING IN DEATH**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that a federal jury in San Antonio this afternoon found 30-year old Heriberto Garcia-Herrera guilty of illegally transporting aliens resulting in death.

The jury found that on March 3, 2004, Garcia-Herrera, Hugo Millan-Coria and Miguel Angel Borzani-Gutierrez were involved in a scheme to smuggle 12 illegal aliens into the United States near Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. Testimony during the trial revealed that once across the border, the smuggled aliens were led to a predetermined pick up area along Highway 57 for transport to Houston, Texas. Zavalla County Sheriff's deputies attempted to stop Garcia-Herrera, the driver of a pickup truck transporting the smuggled aliens, for a traffic violation near La Pryor, Texas. Garcia-Herrera refused to stop and a lengthy, high-speed chase ensued. At approximately 9:30pm, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on Highway 57 in Frio County used spikes in the road to stop the truck. As Garcia-Herrera turned onto Interstate 35, he lost control of the truck. Ivan Hernandez-Ramirez, a 15-year-old Mexican National, was killed and several others were injured in the resulting crash.

"The tragic consequences of this case remind us that the alien smuggling business is a dangerous one. This business values money more than people," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

As a result of the jury's verdict, Garcia-Herrera faces up to life in federal prison. Prior to trial, both Hugo Millan-Coria and Miguel Angel Borzani-Gutierrez pled guilty to a charge of conspiracy to transport aliens. They are scheduled to be sentenced at 1:30pm on February 2, 2005, before United States District Judge Royal Furgeson.

This case was investigated by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Loving is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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